

Civilisation and Races of Southern Italy 387

Amalfi, like Naples, remained in close contact with the Greek world; she was a centre from which Byzantine art radiated into Lombard Italy.

Favoured by a series of Emperors, her merchants

built noble palaces in the Arnalfitan quarter at

Constantinople, Among these trader-princes was

a family founded by a Count Mauro of Amalfi,

about 1000 A.D., which became exceedingly wealthy

and distinguished in that century, and left

memorials of themselves in many places as far

apart as Jerusalem and Monte Cassino, In 1020

the Amalfitans had built in Jerusalem the hospice

of St. Mary and the Magdalene for Christian pilgrims; this was added to by Mauro,

son of the above, in 1050; surviving into the next

century it became the seat of the order of St. John of the

Hospital, A similar hospice at Antioch owed its

existence to him,

But it is rather as donors of the finest and earliest

bronze doors of Southern Italy that this princely

family is to be remembered. The great gate of

bronze of St. Andrew's Cathedral at Amalfi was

cast at the command of Pantaleo, a son of the

above Mauro, in 1065; his name is still to be seen

upon the panels, Mauro, son of Pantaleo, was

the real donor of the bronze doors
which the abbot
Desiderius ordered to be wrought at
Constantinople
for the new church at Monte Cassino;
the names
of Mauro and Pantaleo are still to be
read, not
only upon the gates of the latter, but
also upon
the bronze doors of St. Paul, without
the walls of